



Second Helpings Program

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Leftover Prepared Food? Second Helpings Can Find a Good Use for It

Second Helpings is a prepared and perishable food donation program of Second Harvest Food Bank. This program collects surplus food from restaurants, caterers, corporate cafés and institutional cafeterias throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties for immediate delivery to local soup kitchens, shelters and rehabilitation centers. The goal of Second Helpings is to provide high quality, nutritious food to local nonprofit agencies that feed people in need, and give donors an easy, convenient way to recycle leftover food that would otherwise go to waste.

Types of Food Accepted

Second Helpings accepts the following types of foods, in order to give our receiving agencies a broad selection to choose from:

- Entrees
- Pasta/rice dishes
- Vegetables
- Salads
- Soups
- Snacks
- Desserts
- Dairy Products
- Breads/pastries (limited quantities)
- Non-perishable foods

Food Safety

Food safety is an overriding concern for the Second Helpings program. To ensure that all donated food is safe for consumption, a variety of precautions are taken, including the following:

- Prepared food donations are only accepted from kitchens that are county-certified for serving food to the public.
- Donated food is picked up and delivered on the same day in refrigerated trucks.
- Every Second Helpings employee is ServSafe certified through the National Restaurant Association.
- We conduct regular safety inspections at the agencies that receive prepared foods through this program.

Donor Liability Protection

To protect food donors, all 50 States and the District of Columbia have enacted “Good Samaritan” laws that specifically address food donations. In October 1996, President Clinton signed The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, a federal law that promotes food recovery and gleaning. This legislation provides liability protection for businesses and organizations that donate food which has been properly handled by the donor.

For More Information

For more information about the Second Helpings Program, including how to set up a donation, call Jim Livermore at (650) 281-9439.

About Second Harvest Food Bank

Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties is a private nonprofit organization that collects and distributes more than 23.8 million pounds of food each year to low income children, adults and seniors. The Food Bank currently serves an average of 120,735 individuals each month; nearly 60% are low-income families with children.

Second Harvest Food Bank provides direct services to the community through the following programs:

- **Food Assistance Program** provides food to 618 agencies and distribution sites.
- **Operation Brown Bag** provides weekly bags of supplemental groceries to low-income seniors.
- **Family Harvest** provides food and educational programs to families with dependent children.
- **Partners in Need (PIN)** provides low-income volunteers an opportunity to receive food.
- **Food Connection Hotline** refers families and individuals to local food resources.
- **Second Helpings** collects surplus prepared, perishable foods for delivery to soup kitchens and shelters.
- **Community Nutrition** offers health and nutrition education to agencies and the public.

Gifts of food, money and time are three key ingredients that allow Second Harvest Food Bank to feed thousands of low-income people, including working families with children, singles struggling to make ends meet and seniors living on fixed incomes each month.

Second Harvest Food Bank receives the majority of food it distributes from the community. Last year nearly 45% of the food distributed was donated through local community food drives. In fact, Second Harvest Food Bank runs the largest Holiday Food Drive in the nation. It also receives food from growers, packers, food corporations, distributors, supermarket chains, restaurants, caterers and corporate cafeterias and government programs.

For more information about Second Harvest Food Bank, call (800) 870-FOOD (3663). You can also reach us online at www.2ndharvest.net.